

THE BROAD WALL NO. 3281

A SERMON
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“The broad wall.”
Nehemiah 3:8

IT seems that, around Jerusalem of old, in the time of her splendor, there was a broad wall, which was her defense and her glory. Jerusalem is a type of the church of God. It is always well when we can see clearly, distinctly, and plainly, that around the church to which we belong there runs a broad wall.

This idea of a broad wall around the church suggests three things, *separation, security, and enjoyment*. Let us examine each of these in its turn.

I. First, the **SEPARATION** of the people of God from the world is like that broad wall surrounding the holy city of Jerusalem.

When a man becomes a Christian, he is still in the world, but he is no longer to be of it. He was an heir of wrath, but he has now become a child of grace. Being of a distinct nature, he is required to separate himself from the rest of mankind, as the Lord Jesus Christ did, who was “holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners.”

The Lord’s church was separated in His eternal purpose. It was separated in His covenant and decree. It was separated in the atonement, for even there we find that our Lord is called “the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe.” An actual separation is made by grace, is carried on in the work of sanctification, and will be completed in that day when the heavens shall be on fire, and the saints shall be caught up together with the Lord in the air—and in that last tremendous day, He shall divide the nations as a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats, and then there shall be a great gulf fixed, across which the ungodly cannot go to the righteous, neither shall the righteous approach the wicked.

Practically, my business is to say to those of you who profess to be the Lord’s people, *take care that you maintain a broad wall of separation between yourselves and the world*. I do not say that you are to adopt any peculiarity of dress, or to take up some singular style of speech. Such affectation genders, sooner or later, hypocrisy. A man may be as thoroughly worldly in one coat as in another—he may be quite as vain and conceited with one style of speech as with another. No, he may be even more of the world when he pretends to be separate than if he had left the pretense of separation alone. The separation which we plead for is moral and spiritual. Its foundation is laid deep in the heart and its substantial reality is very palpable in the life.

Every Christian, it seems to me, should be more scrupulous than other men *in his dealings*. He must never swerve from the path of integrity. He should never say, “It is the custom—it is perfectly understood in the trade.” Let the Christian remember that custom cannot sanction wrong and that its being “understood” is no apology for misrepresentation. A lie “understood” is not therefore true.

While the golden rule is more admired than practiced by ordinary men, the Christian should always do unto others as he would that they should do unto him. He should be one whose word is his bond, and who, having once pledged his word, swears to his own hurt, but changes not.

There ought to be an essential difference between the Christian and the best moralist, by reason of the higher standard which the Gospel inculcates and the Savior has exemplified. Certainly the highest point to which the best unconverted man can go might well be looked upon as a level below which the converted man will never venture to descend.

Moreover, the Christian should especially be distinguished by *his pleasures*, for it is here, usually, that the man comes out in his true colors. We are not quite ourselves, perhaps, in our daily toil, where our pursuits are rather dictated by necessity than by choice. We are not alone—the society we are thrown into imposes restraints upon us. We have to put the bit and the bridle upon ourselves.

The true man does not then show himself—but when the day's work is done, then the “birds of a feather flock together.” It is with the multitude of traders and commercial men as it was with those saints of old, of whom, when they were liberated from prison, it was said, “Being let go, they went unto their own company.” So will your pleasures and pastimes give evidence of what your heart is and where it is.

If you can find pleasure in sin, then in sin you choose to live, and unless grace prevent, in sin you will not fail to perish. But if your pleasures are of a nobler kind and your companions of a devout character, if you seek spiritual enjoyments, if you find your happiest moments in worship, in communion, in silent prayer, or in the public assembling of yourselves with the people of God, then your higher instincts become proof of your purer character, and you will be distinguished in your pleasures by a broad wall which effectually separates you from the world.

Such separation should be carried, I think, *into everything which affects the Christian*. “What have they seen in thine house?” was the question Isaiah asked of Hezekiah. When a stranger comes into our house, it should be so ordered that he can clearly perceive that the Lord is there. A man ought scarcely to tarry a night beneath our roof without gathering that we have a respect unto Him who is invisible, and that we desire to live and move in the light of God's countenance.

I have already said that I would not have you cultivate singularities for singularity's sake, yet as the most of men are satisfied if they do as other people do, you must never be satisfied until you do more and better than other people, having found out a mode and course of life as far transcending the ordinary worldling's life as the path of the eagle in the air is above that of the mole which burrows under the soil.

This broad wall between the godly and the ungodly *should be most conspicuous in the spirit of our mind*. The ungodly man has only this world to live for—do not wonder if he lives very earnestly for it. He has no other treasure—why should he not get as much as he can of this? But you, Christian, profess to have immortal life, therefore your treasure is not to be amassed in this brief span of existence.

Your treasure is laid up in heaven and available for eternity. Your best hopes overleap the narrow bounds of time and fly beyond the grave—your spirit must not, therefore be earthbound and groveling, but soaring and heavenly. There should be about you always the air of one who has his shoes on his feet, his loins girded, and his staff in his hand—the air of a pilgrim ready to be off and away to a better land.

You are not to live here as if this were your home. You are not to talk of this world as though it were to last forever. You are not to hoard it, and treasure it up, as though you had set your heart upon it—but you are to be on the wing as though you had not a nest here and never could have, but expected to find your resting place amongst the cedars of God, in the hilltops of glory.

Depend upon it, the more unworldly a Christian is, the better it is for him. I think I could mention several reasons why this wall should be very broad. *If you are sincere in your profession, there is a very broad distinction between you and unconverted people*. Nobody can tell how far life is removed from death. Can you measure the difference? They are as opposite as the poles.

Now, according to your profession, you are a living child of God, you have received a new life, whereas the children of this world are dead in trespasses and sins. How palpable the difference between light and darkness! Yet you profess to have been “sometimes darkness,” but now you are made “light in the Lord.”

There is, therefore a great distinction between you and the world if you are what you profess to be. You say, when you put on the name of Christ, that you are going to the Celestial City, to the New Jerusalem—but the world turns its back upon the heavenly country and goes downward to that other city of which you know that destruction is its doom—your path is different from theirs.

If you are what you say you are, the road you take must be diametrically opposite to that of the ungodly man. You know the difference between their ends. The end of the righteous shall be glory

everlasting, but the end of the wicked is destruction. Unless, then, you are a hypocrite, there is such a distinction between you and others as only God Himself could make—a distinction which originates here and is to be perpetuated throughout eternity.

When the social diversities occasioned by rank and dependency, riches and poverty, ignorance and learning, shall all have passed away, the distinctions between the children of God and the children of men, between saints and scoffers, between the chosen and the castaway, will still exist. I pray you, then, maintain a broad wall in your conduct, as God has made a broad wall in your state and in your destiny.

Remember again, *that our Lord Jesus Christ had a broad wall between Him and the ungodly*. Look at Him and see how different He is from the men of His time. All His life long you observe Him to be a stranger and a foreigner in the land. Truly, He drew near to sinners—as near as He could draw—and He received them when they were willing to draw near to Him. But He did not draw near to their sins. He was “holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners.”

When He went to His own city of Nazareth, He only preached a single sermon and they would have cast Him headlong down the hill if they could. When He passed through the street, He became the song of the drunkard, the butt of the foolish, the mark at which the proud shot out the arrows of their scorn. At last, having come to His own, and His own having received Him not, they determined to thrust Him altogether out of the camp, so they took Him to Golgotha and nailed Him to the tree as a malefactor, a promoter of sedition.

He was the great Dissenter, the great Nonconformist of His age. The national church first excommunicated and then executed Him. He did not seek difference in things trivial, but the purity of His life and the truthfulness of His testimony roused the spleen of the rulers and the chief men of their synagogues. He was ready in all things to serve them and to bless them—but He never would blend with them.

They would have made Him a king. Ah! if He would but have joined the world, the world would have given Him the chief place—as the world’s prince said on the mountain—“All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.” But He drives away the fiend and stands immaculate and separate even to the close of His life.

If you are a Christian, be a Christian. If you follow Christ, go without the camp. But if there be no difference between you and your fellow man, what will you say to the King in the day when He comes and finds that you have on no wedding garment by which you can be distinguished from the rest of mankind?

Moreover, dear friends, you will find that *a broad wall of separation is abundantly good for yourselves*. I do not think any Christian in the world will tell you that when he has given way to the world’s customs, he has ever been profited thereby. If you can go and find an evening’s amusement in a suspicious place and feel profited by it, I am sure you are not a Christian, for, if you were a Christian indeed, it would pain your conscience and unfit you for devout exercises of the heart.

Ask a fish to spend an hour on dry land and I think, did it comply, the fish would find that it was not much to its benefit, for it would be out of its element—and it will be so with you in communion with sinners. When you are compelled to associate with worldly people in the ordinary course of business, you find much that grates upon the ear, that troubles the heart, and annoys the soul. You will be often like righteous Lot, vexed with the conversation of the wicked, and you will say with David,

***“Woe’s me that I in Mesech am
A sojourner so long;
That I in tabernacles dwell
To Kedar that belong.”***

Your soul will pine and sigh to come forth and wash your hands of everything that is impure and unclean. As you find no comfort there, you will long to get away to the chaste, the holy, the devout, the edifying fellowship of the saints.

Make a broad wall, dear friends, in your daily life. If you begin to give way a little to the world, you will soon give way a great deal. Give sin an inch and it will take a mile. "Take care of the pence, and the pounds will take care of themselves," is an apt motto of economy. So, too, guard against little sins, if you would be clear of "the great transgression." Look after the little approaches to worldliness, the little givings-in towards the things of ungodliness, and then you will not make provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof.

Another good reason for keeping up the broad wall of separation is that *you will do most good to the world thereby*. I know Satan will tell you that, if you bend a little and come near to the ungodly, then they also will come a little way to meet you. Ay, but it is not so. You lose your strength, Christian, the moment you depart from your integrity.

What do you think ungodly people say behind your back, if they see you inconsistent to please them? "Oh!" say they, "there is nothing in his religion but vain pretense. The man is not sincere." Although the world may openly denounce the rigid Puritan, it secretly admires him. When the big heart of the world speaks out, it has respect to the man that is sternly honest and will not yield his principles—no, not a hair's breadth.

In such an age as this, when there is so little sound conviction, when principle is cast to the winds and when a general latitudinarianism, both of thought and of practice, seems to rule the day, it is still the fact that a man who is decided in his belief, speaks his mind boldly, and acts according to his profession, is sure to command the reverence of mankind.

Depend upon it, woman, your husband and your children will respect you none the more because you say, "I will give up some of my Christian privileges," or "I will go sometimes with you into that which is sinful." You cannot help them out of the mire if you go and plunge into the mud yourself. You cannot help to make them clean if you go and blacken your own hands. How can you wash their faces then?

You young man in the shop, and you young woman in the workroom, if you keep yourselves to yourselves in Christ's name, chaste and pure for Jesus, not laughing at jests which should make you blush, not mixing up with pastimes that are suspicious, but on the other hand, tenderly jealous of your conscience as one who shrinks from a doubtful thing as a sinful thing, holding sound faith, and being scrupulous of the truth—if you will so keep yourselves, your company in the midst of others shall be as though an angel shook his wings and they will say to one another, "Refrain from this or that just now, for So-and-so is here." They will fear you, in a certain sense. They will admire you in secret. And who can tell but that, at last, they may come to imitate you?

Would you tempt God? Would you challenge the desolating flood? Whenever the church comes down to mingle with the world, it behooves the faithful few to fly to the ark and seek shelter from the avenging storm. When the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were fair to look upon, then it was that God said it repented Him that He had made men upon the face of the earth—and He sent the deluge to sweep them away.

A separate people God's people must be and they shall be. It is His own declaration, "The people shall dwell alone; they shall not be numbered among the nations." The Christian is, in some respects, like the Jew. The Jew is the type of the Christian. You may give the Jew political privileges, as he ought to have. He may be adopted into the state, as he ought to be. But a Jew he is and a Jew he must be still.

He is not a Gentile, even though he calls himself English, or Portuguese, or Spanish, or Polish. He remains one of the people of Israel, a child of Abraham, a Jew still, and you can mark him as such—his speech betrays him in every land.

So should it be with the Christian. Mixing up with other men, as he must in his daily calling. Going in and out among them, like a man among men. Trading in the market. Dealing in the shop. Mingling in

the joys of the social circle. Taking his part in politics, like a citizen, as he is. But at the same time, ever having a higher and a nobler life, a secret into which the world cannot enter and showing the world, by his superior holiness, his zeal for God, his sterling integrity, and his unselfish truthfulness—that he is not of the world, even as Christ was not of the world.

You cannot tell how concerned I am for some of you, that this broad wall should be kept up, for I detect in some of you, at times, a desire to make it very narrow, and perhaps, to pull it down altogether. Brethren, beloved in the Lord, you may depend upon it that nothing worse can happen to a church than to be conformed unto this world. Write “Ichabod” upon her walls then, for the sentence of destruction has gone out against her. But if you can keep yourselves as—

*“A garden walled around,
Chosen and made peculiar ground,”—*

you shall have your Master’s company, your graces shall grow, you shall be happy in your own souls, and Christ shall be honored in your lives.

II. Secondly, the broad wall round about Jerusalem INDICATED SAFETY.

In the same way, a broad wall round Christ’s church indicates her safety, too. Consider who they are that belong to the church of God. A person does not become a member of Christ’s church by baptism, nor by birthright, nor by profession, nor by morality. Christ is the door into the sheepfold. Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ is a member of the true church.

Being a member of Christ, he is a member, consequently, of the body of Christ, which is the church. Now, around the church of God—the election of grace, the redeemed by blood, the peculiar people, the adopted, the justified, the sanctified—around the church there are bulwarks of stupendous strength, munitions which guard them safely.

When the foe came to attack Jerusalem, he counted the towers and bulwarks, and marked them well. And after he had seen the strength of the holy city, he fled away. How could he ever hope to scale such ramparts as those? Brethren, Satan often counts the towers and bulwarks of the New Jerusalem. Anxiously does he desire the destruction of the saints, but it shall never be. He that rests in Christ is saved. He who has passed through the gate of faith to rest in Jesus Christ may sing with joyful confidence,—

*“The soul that on Jesus has lean’d for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake.”*

The Christian is surrounded by *the broad wall of God’s power*. As God is omnipotent, Satan cannot defeat Him. If God’s power be on my side, who then shall hurt me? “If God be for us, who can be against us?”

The Christian is surrounded by *the broad wall of God’s love*. Who shall prevail against those whom God loves? I know that it is vain to curse those whom God has not cursed, or to defy them whom the Lord has not defied, for whomsoever He blesses is blessed indeed. Balak, the son of Zippor, sought to curse the beloved people, and he went first to one hilltop and then to another, and looked down upon the chosen camp. But aha! Balaam, you could not curse them, though Balak sought it! You could only say, “They are blessed, yea, and they shall be blessed!”

God’s law is a broad wall around us and so is *His justice*. These once threatened our destruction, but now the justice of God demands the salvation of every believer. If Christ has died instead of me, it would not be justice if I also had to die for my sin. If God has received the full payment of the debt from the hand of the Lord Jesus Christ, then how can He demand the debt again? He is satisfied and we are secure.

The immutability of God, also, surrounds His people like a broad wall. “I am God, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.” As long as God is the same, the rock of our salvation will be our secure hiding place.

Upon this delightful truth, we might linger long, for there is much to cheer us in the strong security which God has given in covenant to His people. They are surrounded by the broad wall of *electing love*. Does God choose them and will He lose them? Did He ordain them to eternal life and shall they perish? Did He engrave their names upon His heart and shall those names be blotted out? Did He give them to His Son to be His heritage and shall His Son lose His portion? Did He say, “They shall be mine, saith the LORD, in the day when I make up my jewels,” and shall He part with them? Has He who makes all things obey Him no power to keep the people whom He has formed for Himself to be His own peculiar heritage? God forbid that we should doubt it! Electing love, like a broad wall, surrounds every heir of grace.

And oh, how broad is the wall of *redeeming love*! Will Jesus fail to claim the people He bought with so great a price? Did He shed His blood in vain? How can He revive enmity against those whom He has once reconciled unto God, not imputing their transgressions unto them? Having obtained eternal redemption for them, will He adjudge them to everlasting perdition? Has He purged their sins by sacrifice and will He then leave them to be the victims of Satanic craft?

By the blood of the everlasting covenant, every Christian may be assured that He cannot perish, neither can any pluck him out of Christ’s hand. Unless the cross was all a peradventure, unless the atonement was a mere speculation, those for whom Jesus died are saved through His death. Therefore “He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied.”

As a broad wall which surrounds the saints of God is *the work of the Holy Spirit*. Does the Spirit begin and then not finish the operations of His grace? Ah, no! Does He give life which afterwards dies out? That is impossible. Has He not told us that the Word of God is the incorruptible seed, which lives and abides forever? And shall the powers of hell or the evil of our own flesh destroy what God has pronounced immortal or cause dissolution to that which God says is incorruptible?

Is not the Spirit of God given to us to abide with us forever—and shall He be expelled from that heart in which He has taken up His everlasting dwelling? Brethren, we are not of their mind who are led by fear or fallacy to hazard such conjectures. We rejoice to say with Paul, “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.” We delight to sing—

*“Grace will complete what grace begins,
To save from sorrows or from sins;
The work that wisdom undertakes
Eternal mercy ne’er forsakes.”*

Almost every doctrine of grace affords us a broad wall, a strong bastion, a mighty bulwark, a grand munition of defense. Take, for instance, Christ’s suretyship engagements. He is Surety to His Father for His people. When He brings home the flock, think you that He will have to report that some of them are lost? Not so!

“Here am I,” will He say, “and the children that thou hast given me. Of all whom thou hast given me I have lost none.” He will keep all the saints even to the end. *The honor of Christ* is involved in this matter. If Christ loses one soul that leans upon Him, the integrity of His crown is gone—for if there should be one believing soul in hell, the prince of darkness would hold up that soul and say—“Aha! You could not save them all! Aha! You Captain of Salvation, You were defeated here! Here is one poor little Benjamin, are Ready-to-Halt, that You could not bring to glory, and I have him to be my prey forever!”

But it shall not be. Every gem shall be in Jesu’s crown. Every sheep shall be in Jesu’s flock. He shall not be defeated in any way, or in any measure, but He shall divide the spoil with the strong, He shall establish the cause He undertakes, He shall eternally conquer. Glory be unto His great and good name!

III. The idea of a broad wall—and with this I close—SUGGESTS ENJOYMENT.

The walls of Nineveh and Babylon were broad, so broad that there was found room for several chariots to pass each other. Here men walked at sunset, and talked and promoted good fellowship. If you have ever been in the city of York, you will know how interesting it is to walk around the broad walls there.

But our figure is drawn from the Orientals. They were accustomed to come out of their houses and walk on the broad walls. *They used them for rest from toil* and for the manifold pleasures of recreation. It was very delightful, when the sun was going down and all was cool, to walk on those broad walls.

And so, when a believer comes to know the deep things of God, and to see the defenses of God's people, he walks along them and he rests in confidence. "Now," says he, "I am at rest and peace. The destroyer cannot molest me. I am delivered from the noise of archers in the place of the drawing of water, and here I can exercise myself in prayer and meditation. Now that salvation is appointed for walls and bulwarks, I will sing a song unto Him who has done these great things for me. I will take my rest and be quiet, for he that believes has entered into rest. There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus." Broad walls, then, are for rest, and so are our broad walls of salvation.

Those broad walls were also for *communion*. Men came there and talked with one another. They leaned over the wall and whispered their loving words, conversed of their business, comforted one another, related their troubles and their joys. So, when believers come unto Christ Jesus, they commune with one another, with the angels, with the spirits of just men made perfect, and with Jesus Christ their Lord, who is best of all.

Oh! on those broad walls, when the banner of love waves over them, they sometimes rejoice with a joy unspeakable in fellowship with Him who loved them and gave Himself for them. It is a blessed thing, in the church of Christ, when you get such a knowledge of the doctrines of the Gospel that you can have the sweetest communion with the whole church of the living God.

And then the broad walls were also intended for *prospects and outlooks*. The citizen came up on the broad wall, and looked away from the smoke and dirt of the city within, right across to the green fields, and the gleaming river, and the far-off mountains, delighted to watch the mowing of hay, or the reaping of corn, or the setting sun beyond the distant hills. It was one of the common enjoyments of the citizen of any walled city to come to the top of the wall in order to take views afar.

So, when a man once gets into the altitudes of Gospel doctrine and has learned to understand the love of God in Christ Jesus, what wide views he can take! How he looks down upon the sorrows of life! How he looks beyond that narrow little stream of death! How, sometimes, when the weather is bright and his eye is clear enough to let him use the telescope, he can see within the gates of pearl, and behold the joys which no mortal eye has seen, and hear the songs which no mortal ear has heard, for these are things, not for eyes and ears, but for hearts and spirits! Blessed is the man who dwells in the church of God, for he can find on her broad walls places from which he can see the King in His beauty and the land which is very far off!

Ah! dear friends, I wish that these things had to do with you all, but I am afraid they have not, for many of you are outside the wall. And when the destroyer comes, none will be safe but those who are inside the wall of Christ's love and mercy. I would to God that you would escape to the gate at once, for it is open. It will be shut—it will be shut one day, but it is now open. When night comes, the night of death, the gate will be shut and you will then come and say, "Lord, Lord, open to us!" But the answer will be,

*"Too late, too late!
Ye cannot enter now."*

But it is not too late yet. Still Christ says, "Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it." Oh, that you had the will to come and put your trust in Jesus, for if you do so, you shall be saved. I cannot speak to some of you about security, for there are no broad walls to defend you. You

have run away from the security. Perhaps you have been patching up with some untempered mortar, a righteousness of your own, which will all be thrown down as a bowing wall and as a tottering fence.

Oh, that you would trust in Jesus! Then would you have a broad wall which all the battering rams of hell shall never be able to shake. When the storms of eternity shall beat against that wall, it shall stand fast for aye.

I cannot speak to some of you about rest, and enjoyment, and communion, for you have sought rest where there is none, you have got a peace which is not peace, you have found a comfort which will be your destruction. God make you to be distressed and constrain you by sore stress to flee to the Lord Jesus, and so to get true peace, the only peace, for “He is our peace.”

Oh, that you would close in with Christ and trust Him! Then you would rejoice in the present happiness which faith would give you. But the sweetest thing of all would be the prospect which should then unfold to you of the eternal happiness which Christ has prepared for all those who put their trust in Him.

EXPOSITION BY C. H. SPURGEON

PSALM 71

Veres 1-6. *In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion. Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape: incline thine ear unto me, and save me. Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort: thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou art my rock and my fortress. Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man. For thou art my hope, O Lord GOD: thou art my trust from my youth. By thee have I been holden up from the womb: thou art he that took me out of my mother's bowels: my praise shall be continually of thee.*

David had enjoyed the mercy of God from his very birth. We are apt to forget the tender care of God over our infancy, but we ought to remember it—and it will be a great comfort to us if we come to a second childhood, to remember how kindly God took care of us in the first.

7-11. *I am as a wonder unto many; but thou art my strong refuge. Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day. Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth. For mine enemies speak against me; and they that lay wait for my soul take counsel together, saying, God hath forsaken him: persecute and take him; for there is none to deliver him.*

Surely that ought to have been the reason for letting him alone. With right-minded persons it would have been so, but the devil and his children are arrant cowards and their argument is, “Persecute and take him: for there is none to deliver him.” You might as well expect tenderness in a wolf as anything like bravery and chivalry in a persecutor.

12-14. *O God, be not far from me: O my God, make haste for my help. Let them be confounded and consumed that are adversaries to my soul; let them be covered with reproach and dishonour that seek my hurt. But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more.* [See Sermon #998, More and More]

How was he going to do it? Already his mouth was filled with God’s praise, so, surely he would fill his whole life with it, and his actions, which would speak more loudly than his words, should bear daily testimony to the goodness of God.

15-16. *My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof. I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD:*

“This shall be my praise; my very movements, my goings, my progress shall be in the ‘strength of the Lord GOD:’”

16-17. *I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only. O God, thou hast taught me from my youth:* [See sermons #2318, God's Pupil, God's Preacher—An Autobiography and #3271, God, The Children's Teacher]

Here is the same kind of argument again—“O Lord, I went to school to You, so I must teach others what You have taught me.”

17. *And hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works.*

“You made me a preacher, and I have stuck to my work, ‘Hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works.’”

18-20. *Now also when I am old and greyheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come. Thy righteousness also, O God, is very high, who hast done great things: O God, who is like unto thee! Thou, which hast shewed me great and sore troubles, shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth.*

“You shall not merely deliver me from my great and sore troubles, but You shall give me more life, You ‘shalt quicken me again.’” Divine quickening is the best remedy for a troubled heart.

20. *And shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth.*

“Though I seem to be like a man buried in the depth of the earth, You will bring me up again.”

21-22. *Thou shalt increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side. I will also praise thee—*

God blessing us and we in return blessing Him—so it ought to be. The more God does for us, the more we ought to do for Him. Is it not so, brother? Is not this a good argument? Are you carrying it out? Let your conscience answer.

22-23. *With the psaltery, even thy truth, O my God: unto thee will I sing with the harp, O thou Holy One of Israel. My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing unto thee;*

Singing unto God ought to be the gladdest of exercises. When it is done in a doleful, dolorous way, it is not singing, but groaning.

23. *And my soul, which thou have redeemed.*

“The sprinkled blood is on my soul and therefore it shall leap for joy. Rescued from captivity, bought back from slavery, ‘my soul, which thou hast redeemed,’ shall greatly rejoice when I sing unto You.”

24. *My tongue also shall talk of thy righteousness all the daylong: for they are confounded, for they are brought unto shame, that seek my hurt.*

Taken from The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit C. H. Spurgeon Collection. Only necessary changes have been made, such as correcting spelling errors, some punctuation usage, capitalization of deity pronouns, and minimal updating of a few archaic words. The content is unabridged. Additional Bible-based resources are available at www.spurgeongems.org.